

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of customizing a discrete storable unit of information comprising the following steps:

defining ~~an initial~~ a discrete storable unit of information having a type structure;
defining an extension representative of a desired additional data structure;
attaching the extension to the type structure of the ~~initial~~ discrete storable unit of information; and,
creating a ~~new~~ customized discrete storable unit of information.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said extension cannot exist independently from said type structure of said ~~new~~ customized discrete storable unit of information.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the following steps:

defining a plurality of extensions, wherein each extension is representative of a desired additional data structure; and,
attaching the extensions to the type structure of the ~~initial~~ discrete storable unit of information.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said plurality of extensions are used to model overlapping type instances.

6-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A hardware/software interface system for manipulating a plurality of discrete storable units of information, said system comprising a subsystem for:

defining ~~initial~~ discrete storable units of information having a type structure;
defining extensions representative of desired additional data structures;
attaching the extensions to the type structure of the ~~initial~~ discrete storable units of information; and,
creating ~~new~~ customized discrete storable units of information.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, wherein said extensions cannot exist independently from said type structure of the ~~new~~ customized discrete storable units of information.

21. (Currently Amended) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, said system further comprising a subsystem for:
defining a plurality of extensions, wherein each extension is representative of a desired additional data structure; and,
attaching the extensions to the type structure of the ~~initial~~ discrete storable units of information.

22-37 (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-readable instructions for:
defining ~~an initial~~ a discrete storable unit of information having a type structure;
defining an extension representative of a desired additional data structure;
attaching the extension to the type structure of the ~~initial~~ discrete storable unit of information; and,
creating a ~~new~~ customized discrete storable unit of information.

39-42 (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~initial~~ discrete storable unit of information is an Item.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~initial~~ discrete storable unit of information is a Nested Element.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the extension represents a specified property.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the extension represents a specified relationship.

47. (Currently Amended) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, wherein the ~~initial~~-discrete storable units of information are Items.

48. (Currently Amended) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, wherein the ~~initial~~ discrete storable units of information are Nested Elements.

49. (Previously Presented) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, wherein the extensions represent a specified property.

50. (Previously Presented) The hardware/software interface system of claim 18, wherein the extensions represent a specified relationship.